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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. - 19. (cancelled)
20. (currently amended) A method for inhibiting growth of a tumor comprising ~~prostate cancer cells, pancreatic cancer cells or head and neck squamous carcinoma cells~~, which method comprises contacting the tumor with
  - (a) an amount of paclitaxel, and
  - (b) an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of ~~(a)~~ paclitaxel and the amount of ~~(b)~~ C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition, thereby inhibiting growth of the tumor.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor is first contacted with paclitaxel and subsequently contacted with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide.
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor is present in a subject.
23. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery, and the contacting with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery, alcohol-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery.
24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel and with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intralymphatic,

intramuscular, intralesional, parenteral, epidural, subcutaneous, pleural, topical, oral, nasal, anal, ocular and otic.

25. (currently amended) A method of decreasing the size of a tumor, comprising tumor cells, wherein the tumor cells are ~~prostate cancer cells, pancreatic cancer cells or head and neck squamous cell carcinoma cells which method comprises contacting the tumor with~~  
  - (a) an amount of paclitaxel, and
  - (b) an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of (a) paclitaxel and the amount of (b) C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce apoptosis of the tumor cells, and wherein the decrease in size of the tumor is greater than the decrease in size caused by contacting the tumor with either paclitaxel alone or C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide alone, thereby decreasing the size of the tumor.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the tumor is first contacted with paclitaxel and subsequently contacted with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide.
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the tumor is present in a subject.
28. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery, and the contacting with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery, alcohol-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel and with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intralymphatic, intramuscular, intralesional, parenteral, epidural, subcutaneous,

pleural, topical, oral, nasal, anal, ocular and otic.

30. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising paclitaxel, C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition of a tumor.
31. (currently amended) A method for treating a subject afflicted with ~~prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, or~~ head and neck squamous cell cancer, which method comprises administering to the subject an amount of paclitaxel and an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition of the cancer cells, thereby treating the cancer.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein paclitaxel is first administered and C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is subsequently administered to the subject.
33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is first administered and paclitaxel is subsequently administered to the subject.
34. - 41. (canceled)
42. (new) A method for inhibiting growth of a tumor comprising pancreatic cancer cells, which method comprises contacting the tumor with
  - (a) an amount of paclitaxel, and
  - (b) an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition, thereby inhibiting growth of the tumor.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the tumor is first contacted with paclitaxel and subsequently contacted with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide.
44. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the tumor is present in a subject.
45. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery, and the contacting with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery, alcohol-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery.
46. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel and with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intralymphatic, intramuscular, intralesional, parenteral, epidural, subcutaneous, pleural, topical, oral, nasal, anal, ocular and otic.
47. (new) A method of decreasing the size of a tumor, comprising tumor cells, wherein the tumor cells are pancreatic cancer cells, which method comprises contacting the tumor with
  - (a) an amount of paclitaxel, and
  - (b) an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce apoptosis of the tumor cells, and wherein the decrease in size of the tumor is greater than the decrease in size caused by contacting the tumor with either paclitaxel alone or C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide alone, thereby decreasing the size of the tumor.
48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the tumor is first contacted with paclitaxel and subsequently contacted with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide.

49. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the tumor is present in a subject.
50. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery, and the contacting with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by cremophore-mediated delivery, alcohol-mediated delivery or liposome-mediated delivery.
51. (new) The method of claim 49, wherein the contacting with paclitaxel and with C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is effected by an administration route selected from the group consisting of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intrathecal, intralymphatic, intramuscular, intralesional, parenteral, epidural, subcutaneous, pleural, topical, oral, nasal, anal, ocular and otic.
52. (new) A method for treating a subject afflicted with pancreatic cancer, which method comprises administering to the subject an amount of paclitaxel and an amount of C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the amount of paclitaxel and the amount C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide in combination are effective to induce at least a 50% growth inhibition of the cancer cells, thereby treating the cancer.
53. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein paclitaxel is first administered and C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is subsequently administered to the subject.
54. (new) The method of claim 52, wherein C<sub>6</sub>-ceramide is first administered and paclitaxel is subsequently administered to the subject.